

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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P 281948Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WSHDC PRIORITY 7615

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 0977

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: CI PFOR

SUBJ: QUERY FROM SENATORS JAMES ABOUREZK AND
HAROLD HUGHES

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT TELEGRAM ADDRESSED TO ME FEB 25
BY SENATORS ABOUREZK AND HUGHES: QUOTE. WE ARE DEEPLY
CONCERNED BY REPORTS THAT FORMER CHILEAN CABINET
MINISTERS ORLANDO LETELIER, JOSE TOHA, CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA
AND THEIR FELLOW ACCUSED ARE BEING BROUGHT FOR SUMMARY
TRIAL AT SANTIAGO'S MILITARY SCHOOL. PLEASE ALSO INFORM
US FULLEST REFERENCE DEATH PENALTY REPORTEDLY DECREED
BY MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR SENATOR ERICH SCHNAKE AND FORMER
CENTRAL BANK VICE PRESIDENT CARLOS LAZO FRIAS. PLEASE
ASCERTAIN FROM CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ACCURACY THESE REPORTS.
TRUST YOU WILL CONVEY EXPLICITLY TO CHILEAN GOVERNMENT
THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE.
UNQUOTE.

2. REQUEST DEPARTMENT TRANSMIT FOLLOWING REPLY TO
THE SENATORS: QUOTE. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR TELEGRAM
OF FEB 25, FORMER CHILEAN CABINET OFFICERS AND LEADING
OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THOSE NAMED BY YOU, WERE DETAINED
AT SANTIAGO MILITARY ACADEMY IN AFTERMATH OF EVENTS
LAST SEPT 11 AND SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSFERRED TO DETENTION
CENTER DAWSON ISLAND. FROM TIME TO TIME THERE HAVE
BEEN REPORTS SOME RETURNED TO SANTIAGO, AND RECENTLY
CHILEAN GOVT SPOKESMAN REVEALED JOSE TOHA IN SANTIAGO
FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN MILITARY HOSPITAL. ACCORDING TO OUR
INFORMATION, TO DATE NO FORMAL CHARGES HAVE YET BEEN FORMULATED
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AGAINST ANY OF THESE DETAINEES, NONE HAS BEEN TRIED, AND NO DEATH

PENALTY OR OTHER SENTENCE HAS BEEN HANDED DOWN AGAINST THEM
BY ANY COURT. CHILEAN GOVT TAKES POSSITION THEY ARE BEING
HELD PENDING INVESTIGATION. I AM BRINGING YOUR TELEGRAM
TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. UNQUOTE.

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INDICATE TO SENATORS' OFFICES
THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO US TO KNOW SOURCES OF REPORTS
TRANSMITTED IN THEIR CABLE WHICH SIMILAR TO OTHERS WE
HAVE RECEIVED FROM U.S. RECENTLY.
POPPER

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